

Message Text

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62

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SCCT-02 NEA-10 AID-20 OMB-01 PC-04 DRC-01

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R 051731Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1596

INFO USCINCSO

AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

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USCINCSO FOR J-2

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, CO

SUBJ: INTERNAL SECURITY ROUNDUP

REFS: BOGOTA A-267 DEC 27, 73; BOGOTA 0053

SUMMARY. THE BOGOTA PRESS HAS REPORTED THE SURRENDER OF 21 MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLES' LIBERATION ARMY (EPL), CAPTURE OF A REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES OF COLOMBIA (FARC) LEADER, AND ENTRY INTO THE COUNTRY OF MEMBERS OF THE BLACK SEPTEMBER MOVEMENT. THE LAST ITEM IS FALSE. FIVE DEATHS HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN A LAND INVASION IN CHIMICHAGUA, DEPARTMENT OF CESAR. THE COURT MARTIAL OF SUSPECTED ELN MEMBERS CONTINUES. END SUMMARY.

1. THE BOGOTA PRESS OF MARCH 3 AND 4 REPORTED THE SURRENDER OF 21 MEMBERS OF THE EPL TO TROOPS OF THE IV BRIGADE IN THE VICINITY OF CHIGORDO IN ANTIOQUIA. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, THE 21 "COMBATANTS" INCLUDED 8 MEN, 7 WOMEN AND 6 CHILDREN; AND ALL WERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TIRE, HUNGRY AND SICK. AN ARTICLE IN LIBERAL DAILY EL TIEMPO

SAID THIS APPEARS TO BE THE FINAL AGONY OF THE REMNANTS OF THE EPL. THE DAO HAS CONFIRMED THAT 20 MEMBERS OF THE EPL SURRENDERED.

2. A PRESS REPORT OF MARCH 2 IN THE CONSERVATIVE DAILY EL SIGLO ANNOUNCED THE CAPTURE OF ENRIQUE GIRALDO GIRALDO (ALIAS CANO GIRALDO) ALLEGED CHIEF OF THE FIFTH FRONT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES OF COLOMBIA (FARC) WHO HAD, ACCORDING TO THE ACCOUNT, BEEN OPERATING WITH 25 MEN IN THE VICINITY OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF CANASGORDAS IN ANTIOQUIA.

3. IN ADDITION, THE LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THE DEATH OF TWO POLICE-MEN AND THREE CAMPESINOS IN A CONFRONTATION RESULTING FROM A LAND SEIZURE IN CHIMICHAGUA, DEPT OF CESAR. INCORA GENERAL MANAGER JORGE TORRES LOZANO TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICE THE INVASION WAS PART OF A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN BY CAMPESINOS TO APPLY PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT.

4. THE AFTERNOON TABLOID EL ESPACIO FALSELY REPORTED ON MARCH 1 THAT 6 PALESTINIANS, MEMBERS OF THE BLACK SEPTEMBER MOVEMENT, ENTERED COLOMBIA.

5. THE CONTROVERSIAL COURT MARTIAL OF ELN ELEMENTS THAT HAS BEEN UNDERWAY FOR SIX MONTHS AT THE ARTILLERY SCHOOL IN BOGOTA ENTERED A NEW PHASE WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE READING OF THE CASE CONSISTING OF 20,000 PAGES. ON TRIAL ARE ALLEGED MEMBERS OF THE URBAN NET OF THE ELN AS WELL AS ELN GUERRILLAS. THE BRIGADE OF MILITARY INSTITUTES WHICH IS CONDUCTING THE TRIAL IS TRYING 202 DEFENDANTS; 85 ARE ON PROVISIONAL LIBERTY, 65 IN ABSENTIA AND 52 IN CUSTODY, ACCORDING TO THE LOCAL PRESS.

6. THE LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THE FIRST APPEARANCE IN MEDELLIN OF THE SELF-IDENTIFIED ANAPISTA TERRORIST GROUP M-19 ON FEB 26, WITH THE PAINTING OF M-19 SLOGANS ON WALLS NEAR THE DEPARTMENT CAPITOL BUILDING.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, PRESS COMMENTS, SURRENDER, LAND, COURTS MARTIAL, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, PARTY LEADERS, DEATHS, POLICE FORCES, EXTREMISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BOGOTA01886
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740368/aaaacimg.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BOGOTA A-267 DEC 27, 73; BOGOTA 0053
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 SEP 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <11-Sep-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERNAL SECURITY ROUNDUP
TAGS: PINT, CO, (GIRALDO, ENRIQUE GIRALDO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005